

18 September 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with General Carroll Concerning the CIA
Memorandum on the Tallinn System

1. General Carroll said that he had been unable to locate General Spivy who originally communicated General Wheeler's concern with the CIA study on the Tallinn system. General Carroll did talk to General George Brown who is an assistant to General Wheeler. General Brown said that he did not feel that a letter to the Secretary of Defense would serve a particularly useful purpose. I gather that the Joint Chiefs (at least General Wheeler and General Johnson) continue to be unhappy with the conclusions of the memorandum. In their opinion, all a letter would do, however, would be to confirm that the memorandum sets forth tentative and strictly Agency views based on new evidence. General Brown at least sees no point in making this assertion. General Carroll agrees with this and recommends that no letter be sent. He says that he has made it clear to everybody concerned that the dissenting views, particularly on the issue of low level capabilities and as regards the possibility of an ABM mission for the complex, will be presented and argued out during the course of the preparation of NIE 11-3.

2. I asked General Carroll whether he felt that any very substantial damage had been done. As I understood it, he felt that the basic issue would be resolved in the NIE. His concern about the memorandum was that its language, as he read it, constituted a departure from the present text of the present NIE. He feels that it is a mistake for the Agency to publish a finding which appears to contradict the sense of a USIB approved estimate without coordination, etc. He also said that a somewhat misleading impression is given to the uninitiated by the fact that the memorandum carries the inscription "approved by ONE." This, he said, conveys to General Wheeler the idea that the memorandum carried the authority of a Memorandum to Holders.

3. Obviously General Carroll hopes that this won't happen again. On the other hand, he is not prepared to recommend that the

no, "Coordinated with" ONE.

memorandum be recalled. It was not even clear to me that he necessarily felt that the conclusions in the memorandum were wrong.

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